

## **MINUTES**

### **MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**

#### **COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Connell, on February 7, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317 Capitol

#### **ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:**

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)  
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)  
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)  
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)  
Sen. Sue Malek (D)  
Sen. Mary McNally (D)  
Sen. Keith Regier (R)  
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)  
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)  
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)  
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)  
Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

**Members Excused:** None

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary  
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted: SB 154, 1/27/2017

00:00:08 Vice Chair Connell assumed the role as the chair.

00:00:10 Chair Connell

[EXHIBIT\(ens27a01\)](#)

**HEARING ON SB 154**

**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:01:35 Sen. Mike Lang (R), SD 17, opened the hearing on SB 154, Revise net metering incentives.

[EXHIBIT\(ens27a02\)](#)

**Proponents' Testimony:**

00:07:42 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities Resources, Inc.

**Opponents' Testimony:**

00:08:50 Chris Dorrington, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)  
00:10:55 Andrew Valainis, Montana Renewable Energy Association  
00:14:17 Brian Fadie, Montana Environmental Information Center  
00:16:52 Abigail Belcher, Associated Students of Montana State University  
00:17:52 Eric Bergman, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)  
00:21:25 Denny Haywood, self  
00:23:14 Adam Haight, Northern Plains Resource Council (NPRC)  
00:24:29 Jeff Fox, Renewable Northwest (RN)  
00:24:49 Alex Street, self

**Informational Testimony:** None

**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

00:26:18 Sen. Kary  
00:27:00 Mr. Haight, NPRC  
00:27:17 Chair Connell  
00:28:31 Mr. Dorrington, DEQ  
00:28:42 Sen. Kary  
00:29:03 Sen. Lang  
00:29:14 Sen. Malek  
00:31:58 Mr. Bergman, MFU  
00:32:16 Sen. Malek  
00:32:32 Mr. Fox, RN

**Closing by Sponsor:**

00:33:02 Sen. Lang

00:37:20 Chair Connell

00:37:31 Chair Ankney assumed the role as the chair.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 3:45 PM

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Charlene Devine, Secretary

**Additional Documents**

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Additional Documents:

**EXHIBIT**([ens27aad.pdf](#))